

A Free Publication

2009 Edition



# ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK®

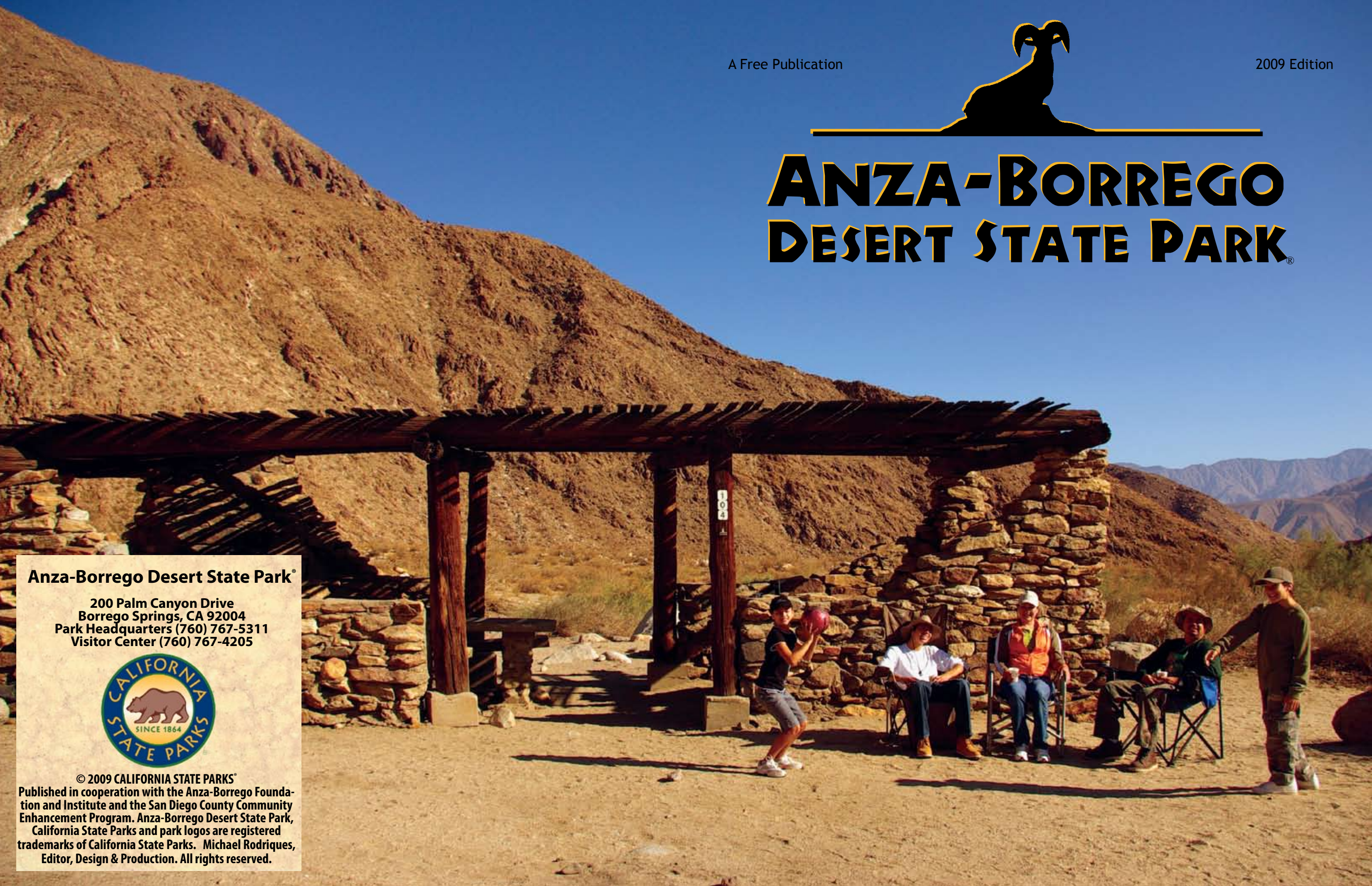
## Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

200 Palm Canyon Drive  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004  
Park Headquarters (760) 767-5311  
Visitor Center (760) 767-4205



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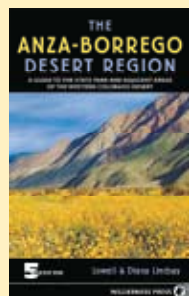




# ANZA-BORREGO FOUNDATION AND INSTITUTE

ABFI is the only nonprofit organization that directly supports  
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

**EXPLORE** our beautiful Visitor Center and Explore Store in person or online and see our exciting array of high quality publications and interpretive gifts, accurate maps, hats and T-shirts, patches and pins. Or call to order (760) 767-4961.



**ENJOY** the Park through educational programs that connect you to the desert you love. See pages 8-11.

Call for more information (760) 767-4063.



**SUPPORT** and protect parklands by becoming an ABFI Member and save 15% on merchandise and a discount on our Institute classes. We invite you to learn more about how you can help. Call (760) 767-0446 or visit us online.

[www.theabf.org](http://www.theabf.org)



Mongolians at our sister park Ikh Nart Nature Reserve enjoying a free park magazine. Funded in part by Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute.



**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY! JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!**

*From The Superintendent Of Anza-Borrego*

## Welcome

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® is preserved forever. The deep, palm-filled canyons, lofty crags, wrinkled badlands and endless vistas provide a lifetime of exploration and tranquility, preserved for our generation and many generations to come.



I have spent my life and most of my 36-year State Park career working in Anza-Borrego and exploring its thousand square miles of wilderness. I offer this as my last Superintendent's Message and extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to you, the Park visitors, volunteers, local residents and my fellow staff members. It is because you care and are willing to step forward to defend it, that Anza-Borrego will continue to be a high-quality desert Park of vital importance to future generations.

For eight decades now, Park maintenance crews, administrative staff, scientists, Park volunteers and Park rangers have carried the torch to protect this wonderful desert park. Park visitors and local residents are protective of their Park and work hard to defend it. When I began exploring this park in 1963, I was fortunate to meet many of the old-time rangers, several Park superintendents and the Park naturalist. They taught me that to make a career in parks it took an unusual dose of dedication, love of the land and people, and many long hours of work. I started work here in 1972, studying the Park's desert bighorn sheep for four summers with fellow biologist Bob Turner. We hiked thousands of miles exploring the Park from Mexico to Riverside County. In 1975 I became a State Park Ranger, went on to become the last State Park Naturalist in California, then on to work as a Resource Ecologist and, finally, Anza-Borrego's Superintendent.

I've always felt that our goal was to work hard to protect this land we love so much,

to help others come to understand and love it, and to leave the place a little better than we found it. A day does not go by that I don't think fondly of the rangers who brought me along in my early days, who told me the stories of the cattlemen and homesteaders, who showed me the backcountry and their ways of enforcing park rules, tracking, giving campfire programs and standing up for what is right in the face of the many pressures facing our parks. Everyday I give thanks to the thousands of Park supporters who make this job one of fulfillment, enrichment and fun.

The support, passion and the outright love that people have for Anza-Borrego is unbelievable. People love the Park's open-camping opportunities, its 500 miles of backcountry roads, unlimited hiking routes, the guided nature walks and the night skies. Visitors love the quiet found in the desert, a quality lost forever in the cities. They long for the unending views of open country, wild, rugged and undisturbed.

As I return to a life of hiking, camping and volunteering in Anza-Borrego, I become one of you. For many years I have hiked all over this Park and have been fortunate to discover many interesting natural and cultural features. I have often said to myself, "Someday I'm going to come back here and spend some time studying this spot." Well, "someday" is almost here and I look forward to becoming a Park visitor again.

The Park is in good hands. The Park staff is one of Anza-Borrego's tremendous resources, as are the volunteers, local residents and visitors from around the world. The torch continues to be passed from one generation to another. As I turn in my Superintendent's desk for my hiking boots, I give thanks to you all for everything you do to protect Anza-Borrego and I look forward to seeing you out in Split Mountain, Harper Flat or in the shade of a palm tree in Salvador Canyon.

*Mark C. Jorgensen*

Mark C. Jorgensen  
Park Superintendent  
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®

# Camping and Day-Use at Anza-Borrego

**Day-Use:** The fee for day-use is now collected ONLY at Borrego Palm Canyon, Tamarisk Grove and the Vern Whitaker Horse Camp. The fee is \$8 per vehicle (off season \$5).

**Developed Campgrounds:** Camping fees will be charged at Borrego Palm Canyon, Tamarisk Grove, Bow Willow and the Vern Whitaker Horse Camp. The fees are shown in the table at right.

**Primitive and Backcountry Camping:** Anza-Borrego remains one of the few places in the country where open camping is permitted. With your help, we hope to keep it that way for many years to come. This year, all primitive and backcountry camping is free of charge. Please help us by following these guidelines:

- Camp at least 100 feet away from water.** Bring a metal container to hold your fire. Fires built on the ground are NOT permitted and violators will be cited.
- Park on the side of the road, so others may pass, but DO NOT trample vegetation or drive over geological formations.
- Keep a clean camp.** Take your trash home with you.

**Camping Reservations (800) 444-7275**



Enjoy all of the modern conveniences in a hook-up campsite.



Some visitors worry about snakes or scorpions, but the sun can be far more dangerous. Drink plenty of water out here!

## Annual Day-Use Pass

From the desert to the sea, California has a most diverse selection of parks and recreation areas waiting for you. Kayak the Salton Sea or surf the Pacific Ocean. Stand in awe of mighty redwoods, crawl through underground caverns or soak in hot mineral springs — all within the California State Park system.



An annual state-wide day-use permit gives you daytime access to nearly all of California's state parks, beaches, reserves and recreation areas. The \$125 permit is on a vehicle hang-tag, valid for a full year. Purchase your statewide day-use permit at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center or Colorado Desert District Headquarters.

Campgrounds	Reservations	Fee per night	Number of Sites			Max. Length RV	Max. People per Site	Drinking Water	Toilets: Vault or Flush		Showers	Picnic Tables	Shade Ramadas	Stoves or Fire Rings	Campfire Center	Elevation in feet	Miles to HQ
Borrego Palm Canyon Hookup	X	\$35*	52	35'	8		X	F	X	X		X	X	X	X	775	1
Borrego Palm Canyon Non-Hookup	X	\$25*	65	25'	8		X	F	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	775	1
Borrego Palm Canyon Group Camp	X	\$80*	5		24		X	F	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	775	1
Tamarisk Grove	X	\$25*	27	21	8		X	F	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1400	13
Horse Camp																	
Campers with Horses only	X	\$30*	10	24	8		X	F	X	X			X			960	8
Bow Willow		\$7*	16	24	8		X	V		X	X	X				950	55
<b>Backcountry Camping</b>																	
Culp Valley								V								3400	10
Sheep Canyon								V		X	X					1500	14
Arroyo Salado								V								880	19
Yaqui Pass																1730	12
Yaqui Well			10					V								1400	13
Fish Creek			6					V				X				280	30
Blair Valley								V								2500	32
Mt. Palm Springs								V								760	54

*\*Prices are subject to change. Off-season rates available. Check with us for current park fees.*



Photo by Ranger Steve

# ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK®

200 Palm Canyon Drive

Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Park Headquarters (760) 767-5311

## Visitor Center Program Information

(760) 767-4205

[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

711, TTY relay service

## Visitor Center

October through May, Open Thursday to Monday. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

During the summer months of June through September, open weekends and holidays only, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## Campground Reservations

(800) 444-7275 or

[www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com)

## Lodging and Restaurants

Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 66

786 Palm Canyon Drive

Borrego Springs, Ca. 92004

(760) 767-5555 or (800) 559-5524

## Wildflower Hotline

For the latest wildflower news,  
24 hours.

(760) 767-4684

## Anza-Borrego Foundation & Institute

760-767-0446

[www.theabf.org](http://www.theabf.org)

### California State Parks supports equal access.

Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact: The Visitor Center, (760) 767-0334 or (760) 767-4205

**This publication is available  
in alternate formats by  
contacting The Visitor Center,  
(760) 767-0334 or  
(760) 767-4205**



Photo by Ranger Steve



## Ask the Ranger...

### Why must I have my fire in a metal container?

We receive an average of six to seven inches of rain per year, which is not enough to wash away fire scars or encourage biological removal of charring and soot. Because of this, scars from fires that were built by Native Americans long ago are still visible today. With a nearly a million visitors per year, the scars left behind today would ruin the beauty of the landscape.

Obviously, because of the desert climate, once a fire escapes your control it can instantly turn into a raging brush fire. We have had many huge fires that began with a conscientious camper burning his toilet paper.

### Why do rangers carry guns?

State Park Rangers are “generalists.” We are interpreters who can explain the fascinating natural processes going on in the Park. We are safety experts who can help you plan a safe visit or rescue you if necessary. We are also state peace officers, because many state parks are far from local police or sheriff protection and, unfortunately, law enforcement is often necessary to protect the Park or the people in it.

### Are there any rules about making noise in the park?

One of the desert’s most special features is the absolute silence you can experience here. The howling of the wind and the chorus of coyotes are also sounds that people come here to experience. Because of this, everyone is asked to observe “quiet hours” between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. If you are running a generator, you must keep it off from 8 p.m. to 10 a.m.

### Can I hunt at Anza-Borrego?

California’s State Parks are set aside to preserve and protect the state’s natural and cultural resources. Because of this objective, hunting or loaded firearms aren’t allowed. Licensed hunters are allowed to hunt in-season on adjacent B.L.M. lands.

### Is my dog welcome in the campground?

Yes. Your dog is welcome on a six-foot leash in the campground and on the many dirt roads in the Park. Common courtesy and safety regulations require that you keep your dog under control at all times.

### Why aren’t dogs allowed on trails or in wilderness areas?

There are many reasons. Many animals in the Park react to the scent of a canine, reading only: predator. Although your dog may be friendly, many of the animals that live in a habitat will avoid areas where a predator scent has been left. This means they may not be able to search for food or find safety in their usual places. In addition, many diseases may be spread either to your dog from wildlife or vice versa. Some of these diseases like plague and Lyme disease are dangerous to humans as well.

The desert poses some special problems for dogs. Cholla cactus can easily become embedded in a dog’s paw, then mouth, the other paw, etc. Many dogs have been rushed from the Park to emergency veterinary care an hour or more away. Rattlesnakes are another concern. Humans are wise enough to heed the snake’s warning; a dog may not. Pet dogs have been killed by rattlesnakes (and coyotes) in the Park. Even burned pads on the bottom of your dog’s feet will ruin his visit to the Park. Not only is it illegal to take your dog on trails into the Park, it is dangerous, and your dog would probably rather be at home.

## Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute



(ABFI) is partnered with Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® (ABDSP) to support the preservation and appreciation of this unique and fragile region. We are the Park's only nonprofit partner working to protect, preserve and expand Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®. Let us connect you with the Park you love!

### Education Programs

Education programs at ABFI allow you to dig deeper and learn more about our amazing desert. Join us for a wide variety of year-round programs including educational hikes, workshops, lectures and tours. Topics include astronomy, natural history, archaeology, paleontology and the arts. Our expert instructors lead in-depth explorations that will both intrigue and inspire you. Exciting new programs include a family camping weekend and week-long Desert Hostel experience right here in Anza-Borrego!



Camp Director Jeff Crosswhite introduces 5th grade campers to the intricacies of desert ecology. Photo by Deborah Knapp

We offer a variety of learning opportunities for youth as well. Camp Borrego, our environmental education tent camp, offers a three-day adventure to underserved 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The students spend their days studying fossils, learning about desert animal and plant adaptations and exploring springs and palm oases. And when the sun goes down they find critters using black lights, devour campfire s'mores and sleep under the stars.

Another youth program is Anza-Borrego PORTS - Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students - an innovative video technology program that delivers live presentations from rangers in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® right to K-12 students' classrooms throughout California. ABFI youth programs inspire children to explore nature and instill an appreciation for the wonderful resources found in Anza-Borrego Desert and other State Parks.



A desert race! Anza-Borrego Desert Photo Contest award winner. Photo by Christina Kamme

### Conserving Land

One of our goals is to expand ABDSP by acquiring privately owned lands within the Park. Since 1967, ABFI has ensured that 43,000 additional acres of land remain free from human influence. Deeding these lands to the State preserves the many qualities they offer: solitude, starry skies, breathtaking vistas and an incredibly diverse ecosystem. Help us protect our Park from the many threats facing

it today, for our own enjoyment and that of future generations.

The Anza Trail Initiative, our campaign to acquire privately-owned land located in the corridor and viewshed of Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, is now in its second year. Through grant funds and generous donations, we have acquired 720 acres in this historic area to date. By the end of the campaign in 2010, Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute hope to preserve a large portion of the targeted 22,000 acres of historically rich lands for the Park.

### Research Projects

ABFI also contributes to important research projects that assist Park management in making informed decisions critical to the preservation of the precious resources in the Anza-Borrego region. We support citizen science projects in which volunteers monitor native species like bighorn sheep, hawks and mountain lions. Through these projects, as well as research scholarships and science symposia, ongoing studies of this unique region's wildlife are made possible. The more we know about the Park, the better equipped we can be to protect it for future generations.



## Join Us!

Funding is provided through our operation of the ABDSP Visitor Center bookstore, Institute program registrations, memberships, sponsorships and contributions. Each and every one of our programs supports Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®. We invite you to visit our website or call us to request a current program brochure.

You can support our crucial mission by becoming a member. Members receive discounts on programs and all purchases at the ABDSP Visitor Center. Look for ABFI's membership envelope enclosed or join online.

**If you love the Park, join Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute today!**

**[www.theabf.org](http://www.theabf.org)**

**(760) 767-4063**

Share your inspiration and love of Anza-Borrego!

Submit your photos for our annual Anza-Borrego Desert Photo Contest.

"People's Choice" and Plants - 1st Place award winner.

Photo by Edward Nolan

# Connecting Children with Nature

## The Future of Camp Borrego



The best classrooms have no walls — and hundreds of southern California fifth graders are experiencing this first hand as they visit Camp Borrego, in the heart of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®. This environmental education tent camp offers many students their first — and hopefully not last — camping experience as well as their first experience in a State Park.

Throughout their three-day adventure the children are introduced to the varied natural and cultural resources of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®. They also are exposed to intriguing wildlife, scientific research and new careers they might never have considered like wildlife biology or paleontology. Camp Borrego provides students with opportunities for team building and positive self-growth as



A Mongolian ger (yurt)

they connect with nature and their classmates. Children from all over San Diego and Imperial counties come to Camp Borrego each spring as the desert flowers begin to bloom. Erratic weather, with harsh wind and rain, is common for that time of year and has created challenges for both staff and students, as they spend the majority of their three-day adventure outside.



In response to the desert's unpredictable weather, construction of seven Mongolian gers (yurts) will provide weather-resistant sleeping and meeting facilities. In addition to providing shelter, these authentic gers will offer opportunities to educate students and the public about the types of adaptations made throughout the world for living in extreme climates.

More crucial developments are on the horizon for Camp Borrego in the coming years. These include a dining shelter and covered cooking area protected from wind and rain, two dedicated on-site toilets and solar panels to power Camp Borrego's entire facility!

What better gift can we offer the next generation than a passion for discovery, connection to its land and heritage and commitment to caring for its natural world? Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute is proud to bring this experience to underprivileged youth in partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education.

Learn more about Camp Borrego and other ABFI education programs by visiting our website.

[www.theabf.org](http://www.theabf.org)

# Families, Friends and Anza-Borrego

## Desert State Park®!

## We will protect the things we know and love.

Not everyone is able to come to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park®. How can we share it with children who may never get to see this amazing place?

Today's students are communicating in new ways and California State Parks is keeping up with the new trends in communication. A new partnership with schools breaks down the barriers of budgets and distance and continues the Parks' goal of connecting children to their cultural and natural history. The PORTS, Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students, program is delivering live interactive programs to classrooms across the state.

Imagine that your students are studying geological processes that shaped the earth and you are trying to relate the immensity of these processes. What better place to visit than Anza-Borrego where spectacular landforms tell us stories of plate movements, uplift, earthquakes, ancient seas and river basins?

The fossils of the Anza-Borrego Badlands tell an amazing story of climate change: a savannah landscape full of the massive, marvelous mammals and birds of the Pleistocene ice ages! The bones of giant sloth, enormous camels, mammoths and saber tooth cats are being excavated from the ancient Colorado River deposits today! Via live videoconference students can learn about the science of Paleontology while viewing some of the amazing fossils from our collection.

By taking students on virtual fieldtrips to Borrego Palm Canyon, the Badlands and the Slot, we share the beauty of these special places

and the importance of protecting them. We strive to increase students' interest and their awareness of the opportunities available for them at nearby State Parks. Rather than replace fieldtrips, we hope to encourage more students and teachers to visit State Parks and share what they have learned with their friends and families.

The Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute and donors such as the Desert Protective Council has been key to the success of Anza-Borrego's PORTS programs. Their generous contributions have helped to set up a green screen studio, buy mobile satellite equipment and fund interpreters for program development and presentations. These programs are free for schools. During the past three years, more than 20,000 students have visited Anza-Borrego Desert State Park from their classrooms. If you would like to help us fund these outreach programs, [visit www.theabf.org](http://www.theabf.org) or call (760)767-0446.

Visit [www.ports.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ports.parks.ca.gov) to learn more about all of the programs and find the contact information to help you get started.



# Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Activities

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park offers many interpretive programs scheduled monthly. For specific information, please stop by the Park Visitor Center, campgrounds or check our website.

**The Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute** offers in-depth programming in cooperation with the State Park at modest cost. ABFI uses the funds raised to help protect and conserve our beautiful Park. If you are interested, please call: (760) 767-4063.

**Naturalists' Talks** Presentations by Volunteer Naturalists take place at the Visitor Center. Most talks last about 40 minutes and are held outdoors or inside our air-conditioned classroom. We offer unique programs covering wildlife, plants, geology, fossils and many other topics. Naturalists' Talks are accessible to wheelchair users.

**Nature Walks** Often beginning at the Visitor Center, these are easy (about one half mile) walks which last about 45 minutes. Led by Park staff or volunteers, a nature walk offers you the chance to explore Park natural features with a knowledgeable guide. The monthly schedule announces the topic, time, place and any other information you might need.

**Guided Hikes** Join Park staff or volunteers for a longer walk that may cover some rocky, hilly or uneven terrain. The topic and length of time to allow are listed on the monthly schedule. Please note that many of these hikes begin at the end of dirt roads or at other distant locations. Ask about current driving conditions at the Visitor Center or call the Visitor Center at (760) 767-4205 for more information.

**Campfire Programs** You don't have to be a camper to visit the campground for our free

**Many Activities are Accessable**  
Please check the Monthly Interpretive Schedule for details.



evening programs. Presented by Park staff and knowledgeable volunteers, our unique programs often include a slide program and sometimes games, stories or songs add to the fun. Campfire programs are held at Borrego Palm Canyon, Tamarisk Grove and Bow Willow Campgrounds, primarily on weekends. See the monthly schedule for details.

**Jr. Ranger Programs** A special hour for kids aged 7-12 only, Jr. Rangers provides the opportunity for children to meet, have fun, learn about the Park and earn awards. Sorry, no parents are allowed during this kids-only time. Programs are offered on Saturdays during winter and spring. Parents may drop off and pick up their children at the Visitor Center. Attendance is limited. Please have your child sign up at the Visitor Center on the weekend of the program.

**Groups** Non-profit educational and youth organizations for children in kindergarten through high school may request an interpretive program presented exclusively to your group at the Visitor Center. These programs are aligned with the state educational standards.

## Familiar Flora & Fauna

If this is your first visit to Anza-Borrego, you may be wondering what kind of plants and animals you can expect to see in the Park today. If possible, we encourage you to leave your car and do some exploring on foot. Here are some desert plants and animals to watch for.

**Ocotillo** This tall, spindly plant can be found at all but the highest and lowest of elevations throughout the Park. When in bloom, it may look like a candle with spikes of red flowers flaming at its tips.



**Cholla** (pronounced choy-ya) Many species of this cactus are seen (and felt!) throughout the Park. Some cholla (known as Jumping Cholla) reproduce by dropping joints that look like spine balls. These cholla balls roll across the ground, or get attached to wildlife, until given the opportunity to take root.



**Roadrunner** Funny as it sounds, these birds are most often seen crossing the road. They can fly and will build nests low in trees. Roadrunners are meat eaters, favoring lizards, insects, scorpions and even small mice.

**Peninsular Bighorn Sheep** This endangered mammal is the Park's namesake (borrego). Look for them on the rocky slopes just above the desert floor. Loss of habitat and predation by mountain lions are two of the biggest problems facing this species right now. The Park is actively working to protect this animal and enhance its habitat. You can help by keeping your dog on a six-foot leash at all times and by walking it on the dirt roads, but not the foot trails in the Park, especially the Borrego Palm Canyon trail.



**Black-tailed Jackrabbit** The jackrabbit is found here along with his smaller cousins, the Audubon Cottontail and Brush Rabbit. Most active early in the morning and late in the evening, the jackrabbits eat shrubs, tree and flower sprouts and leaves, and even cactus on occasion.



Photo by Nancy Baily

# The California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

By Nina Gordon and Gail Sevens



Want to take your kids outside to enjoy some family time, connect to nature and just plain let your kids be kids? Are you unsure what to do and where they can be safe, happy and healthy?

With recent concerns about youth detachment from the natural world and outdoor activities, lack of physical exercise and increased health risks, the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism created the California Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights is a life list of ten fun activities that all children should have a chance to experience between the ages of 4 and 14. The activities are simple, achievable and promote outdoor recreation and a connection to nature and heritage. See the accompanying list and discover where your family can enjoy these activities.



Participating in these activities results in children being healthier and happier and strengthens family bonds. The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights appeals both to kids and parents. Kids enjoy it as the activities are fun and provide a challenge with rewards. Parents are appreciative since it gets their kids outside and active and encourages family participation.

**The Governor's Endorsement**  
California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger endorsed the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights stating "spending time in the great outdoors can be a wonderful experience for people of all ages, and this is especially true for our youth. Participating in outdoor activities is not only an enjoyable way for kids to get the exercise they need, it also helps them develop a greater appreciation for our magnificent environment."



## Resources and More Information

The California State Parks website at [www.parks.ca.gov/cinc](http://www.parks.ca.gov/cinc) contains resources on the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights including flyers in English and Spanish. Also, see the website for the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks and Tourism at [www.calroundtable.org](http://www.calroundtable.org).

Hear are the ten activities of the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and where kids can enjoy them in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and nearby:

- **Discover California's Past**

For thousands of years Native American families — both Cahuilla and Kumeyaay — called the valley home. Ranching families of the early 1900s lived here. Try a respectful visit to Mine Wash to see remnants of a Native American village or observe the morteros at Blair Valley.

- **Splash in the water**

Even though Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® is located in a desert, there are a few streams where families can relax and dangle their toes. Visit a palm oasis up Borrego Palm Canyon or enjoy the desert willow at Coyote Creek.

- **Play in a safe place**

Observe a few simple guidelines to make the park a safe place for your kids to play: drink plenty of water, watch your step to avoid trampling a critter, cover up from the sun.

- **Camp under the stars**

For a developed campground, try Borrego Palm Canyon, Tamarisk Grove or Bow Willow. Primitive camping at Blair Valley is a favorite star-gazing spot for astronomers. Or take

advantage of one of the last parks in the country to allow open backcountry camping and pitch your tent in open country.

- **Explore nature**

With more than 600,000 acres in the Park, there's plenty to explore for a lifetime!

- **Learn to swim**

Visit Salton Sea State Recreation Area to find water deep enough for swimming.

- **Play on a team**

Come out for a Jr. Ranger program, where kids enjoy all sorts of activities, including team play.

- **Follow a trail**

Stroll along the Visitor Center All-Access Nature Trail, learning about native plants in the process. Hike up Borrego Palm Canyon or check out the Cactus Loop Trail by Tamarisk Grove Campground

- **Catch a fish**

Visit nearby Salton Sea State Recreation Area, where the tilapia are biting!

- **Celebrate their heritage**

Join us for our annual spring archaeology weekend. Tour our resource laboratories or see buildings and campgrounds built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.



# Hiking Trails - Numbered on Following Maps

## Visitor Center & Campground Area - See Map on Opposite Page

- 1

**Borrego Palm Canyon Nature Trail** 3.0 miles round trip  
Begins at Borrego Palm Canyon Campground. Self-guided trail brochure describes plants and geology. Gently climbing trail leads to native palm grove. May be under construction due to flash flood.
- 2

**Panoramic Overlook Trail** 1.0 mile round trip  
Begins at Borrego Palm Canyon Campground, near site #71. Steep uphill trail ending with a view of campground and Borrego Valley.
- 3

**Visitor Center / Campground Trail** 1.2 miles round trip  
Begins at Visitor Center or B.P.C. Campground. Easy trail between the two locations, typical creosote scrub environment.
- 4

**Visitor Center All-Access Nature Trail** 0.25 miles round trip  
This trail takes 15 minutes or so and has a hard surface. Begin at the front doors of the Visitor Center.
- 5

**California Riding and Hiking Trail** 12.0 miles round trip  
Begins at Culp Valley Campground (north end). Following the ridge, this trail drops more than 2,000 feet in elevation. Taken one way (downhill) it is a moderate hike, round-trip more difficult. One-way trip ends at the Hellhole parking area.
- 6

**Hellhole Canyon / Maidenhair Falls Trail** 6.0 miles round trip  
Begins at Hellhole Canyon parking area. Mostly difficult hike up into a canyon oasis. Some rock scrambling required.
- 7

**Little Surprise Canyon Trail** 0.6 mile round trip  
Begins at Hellhole Canyon parking area. Moderate hike through a complex geologic area.
- 8

**Pena Spring Trail** 0.6 miles round trip  
Begins at Culp Valley Campground. Easy walk to an artesian water source, which is piped into a shallow tank used by birds and wildlife.

## Coyote Canyon & Badlands - See Center Map on Next Page

- 9

**Alcoholic Pass** 2.0 miles round trip  
Begins at Coyote Canyon road, 2.8 miles from end of pavement. Used by Indians and cowboys alike, this moderately strenuous trail will lead to the top of a pass with views of Coyote Canyon and the surrounding mountains.
- 10

**Calcite Mine** 4.0 miles round trip  
Park on Hwy. S-22 at mile 38.0 (turnout). Walk north to the jeep road and follow it up to the old mine area. This is a steep, moderately difficult hike with no shade.
- 11

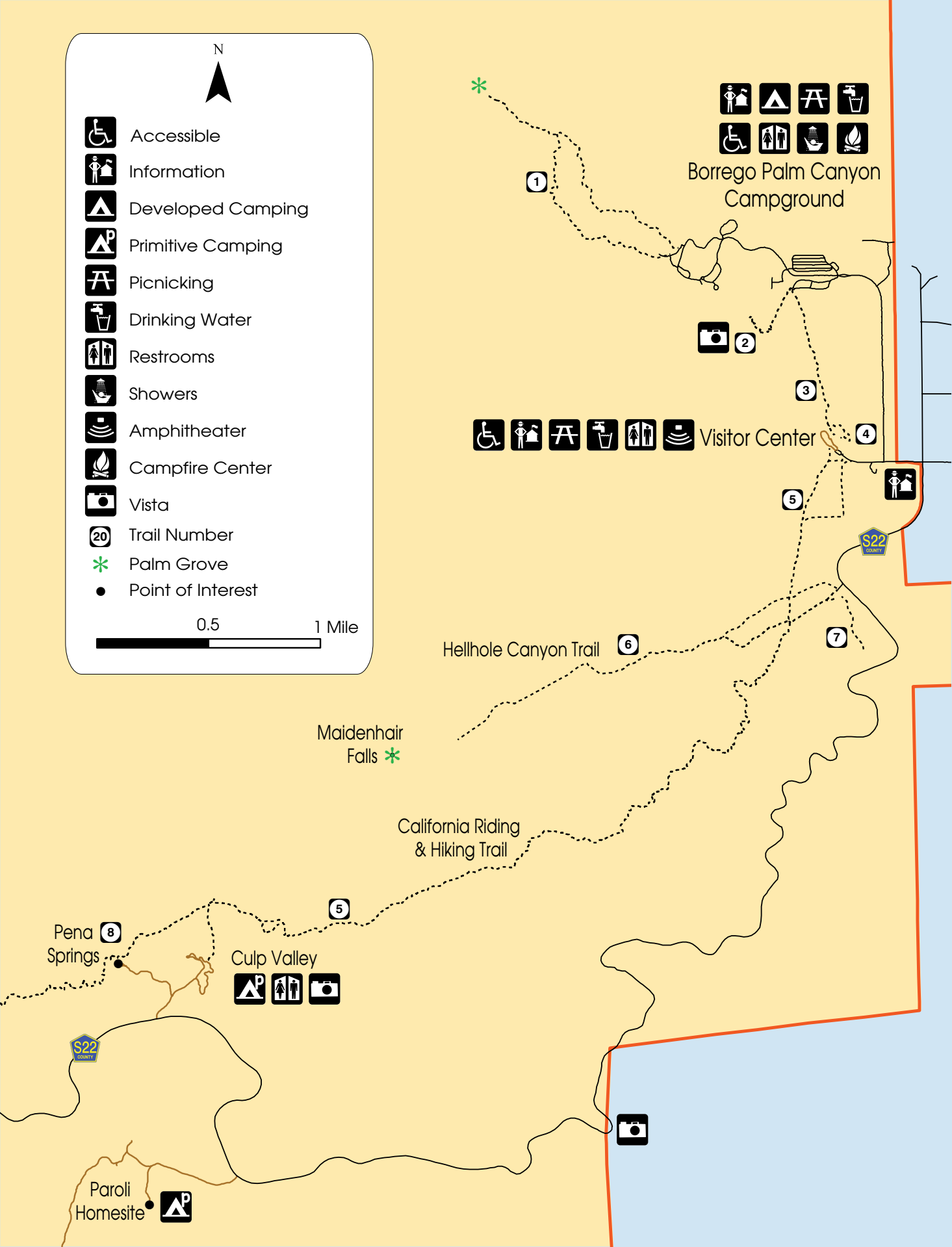
**Wilson Trail - Culp Valley Area** 8.8 miles round trip  
Access from Old Culp Valley Road. This moderate hike follows Pinyon Ridge. It offers spectacular views of the valley.

## Blair Valley Area - See Center Map on Next Page

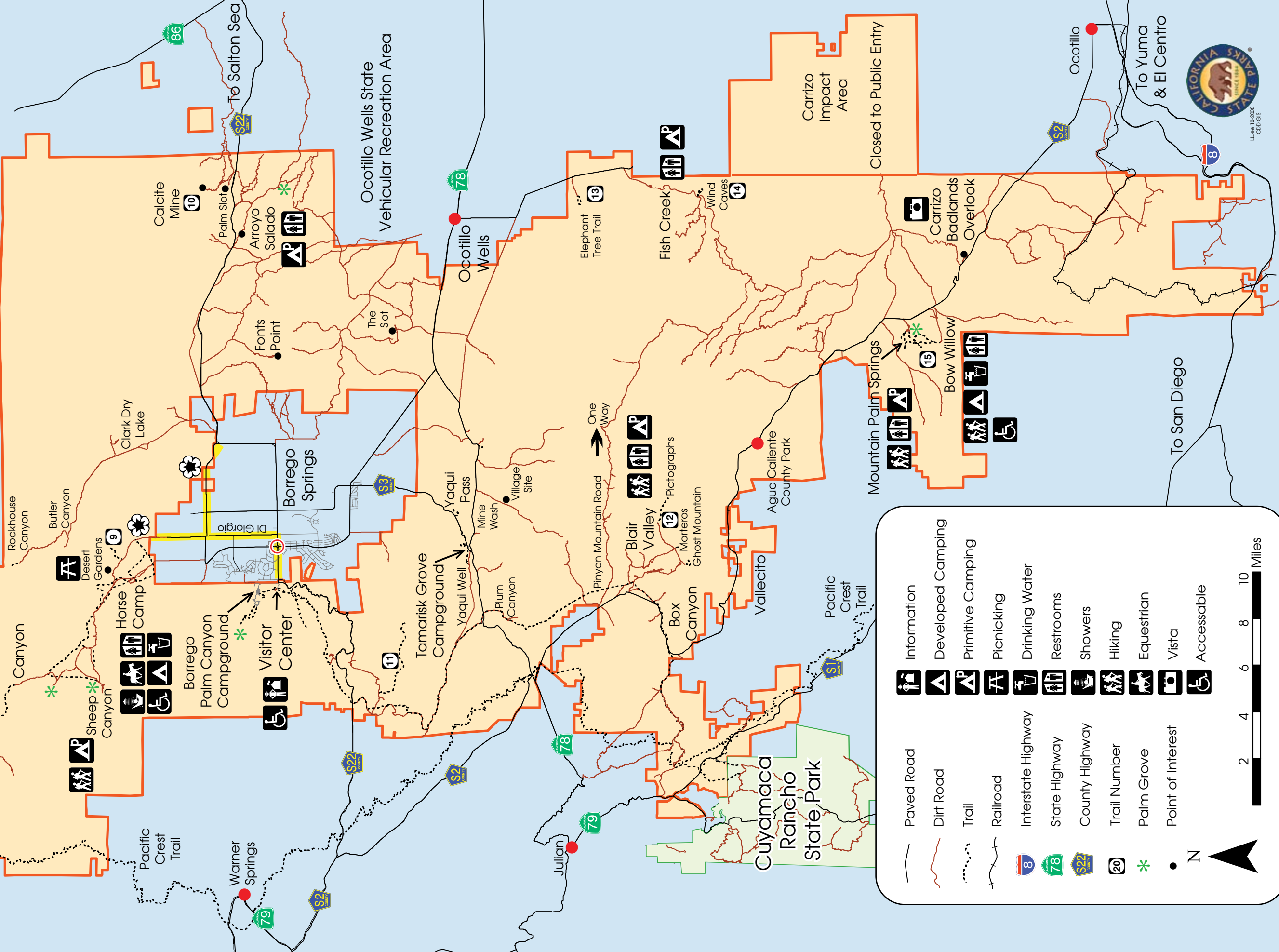
- 12

**Ghost Mountain** 2.0 miles round trip  
Begins in Blair Valley, 2.7 miles from Hwy. S-2. The ruins of the South home, where a family lived in the 1930s, can be seen at the top of this short, steep trail.
- 12

**Morteros Trail** 0.4 miles round trip  
Begins in Blair Valley, 3.5 miles from Hwy. S-2. Indian grinding holes are visible in the boulders along this very easy trail.



# ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK



- |  |                    |  |                   |
|--|--------------------|--|-------------------|
|  | Paved Road         |  | Information       |
|  | Dirt Road          |  | Developed Camping |
|  | Trail              |  | Primitive Camping |
|  | Railroad           |  | Picnicking        |
|  | Interstate Highway |  | Drinking Water    |
|  | State Highway      |  | Restrooms         |
|  | County Highway     |  | Showers           |
|  | Trail Number       |  | Hiking            |
|  | Palm Grove         |  | Equestrian        |
|  | Point of Interest  |  | Vista             |
|  |                    |  | Accessible        |



**Blair Valley Area continued - See Center Map on Previous Page**

**12 Pictograph Trail / Smuggler’s Canyon Trail 2.0 or 3.0 miles round trip**  
Begins in Blair Valley, 3.6 miles from Hwy. S-2. This is an easy trail that climbs over a low pass, leading to a pictograph-covered boulder. Continue ½ mile further to reach Smuggler’s Canyon. The trail stops at the edge of a dry waterfall with great views of Vallecito Valley.

**Fish Creek - See Center Map on Previous Page**

**13 Elephant Tree Discovery Trail 1.0 mile loop**  
Begins 5.9 miles south of Hwy. 78 off Split Mountain Road. A self-guided trail brochure introduces life on an alluvial fan, including a look at a rare elephant tree. Easy walk.

**14 Wind Caves Trail 2.0 miles round trip**  
Begins 3 miles from Split Mountain Road on Fish Creek Wash. Somewhat steep, but easy hike to carved out sandstone formations.

**Bow Willow Area - See Center Map on Previous Page**

**15 Pygmy Grove 1.0 mile round trip**  
Turn off Hwy. S-2 for Mountain Palm Springs Campground, but stay left. An easy hike leads you to 50 short palm trees.

**15 Southwest Grove 2.0 miles round trip**  
Turn off Hwy. S-2 for Mountain Palm Springs Campground, but stay left. Continue beyond Pygmy Grove to this second grove, visible from the parking lot.

**15 Mary’s Bowl Grove 0.5 miles round trip**  
Turn off Hwy. S-2 for Mountain Palm Springs Campground, but stay right. Follow rocky arroyo path visible from campground, take the right fork. Elephant trees and palms are only a short walk from the parking area.

**15 Palm Bowl 2.0 miles round trip**  
Turn off Hwy. S-2 for Mountain Palm Springs Campground, but stay right. Follow rocky arroyo path visible from campground; take the left fork passing through Surprise Canyon, a large grove. Continue 1/4 mile further to reach Palm Bowl, ringed by more than 100 palms.

**Tamarisk Grove Area - See Map on Opposite Page**

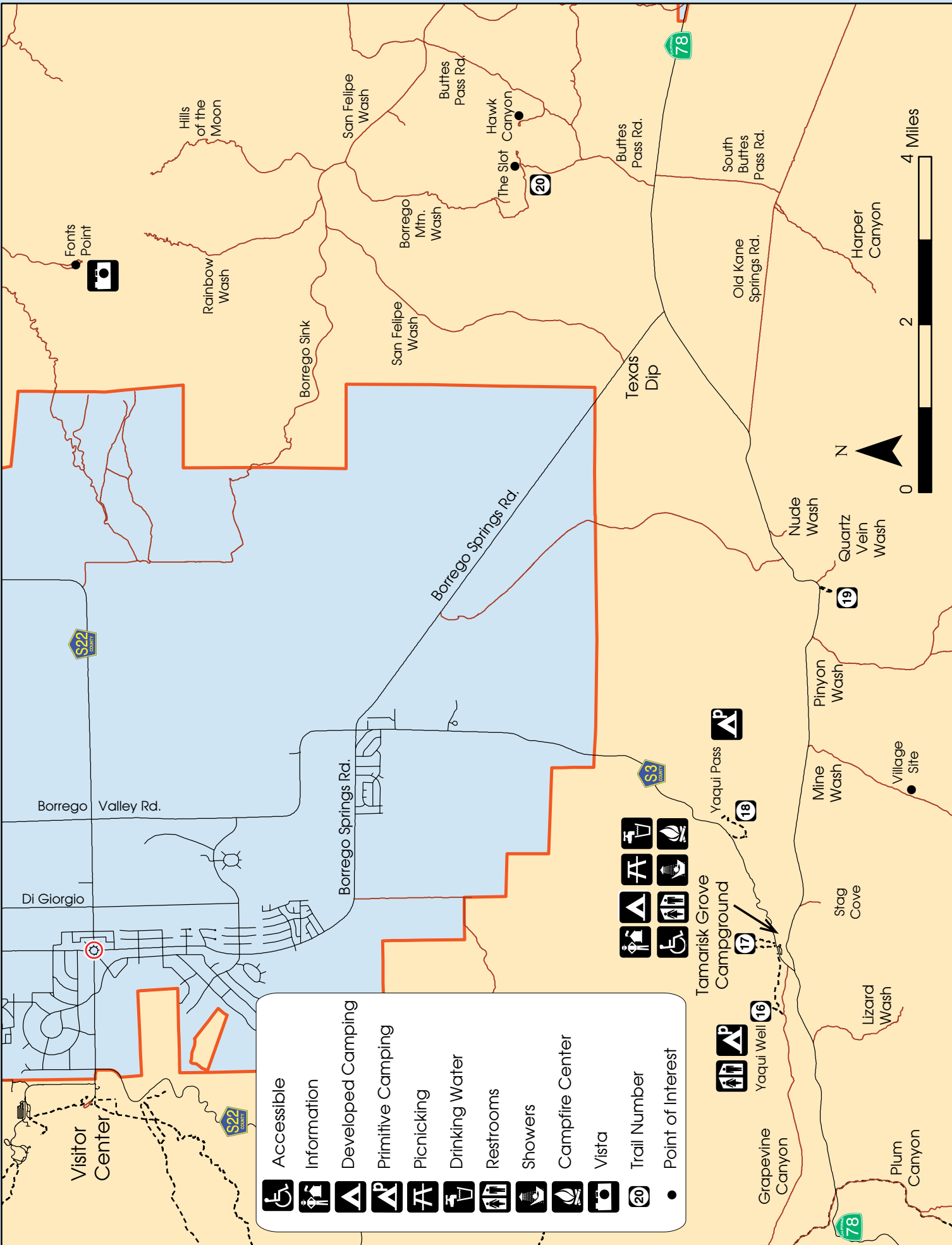
**16 Yaqui Well Nature Trail 1.6 miles round trip**  
Begins across from Tamarisk Grove Campground. Self-guided trail brochure leads you along path to a desert water hole. Easy walk, abundant birds and wildlife.

**17 Cactus Loop Trail 1.0 mile loop**  
Begins across road from Tamarisk Grove Campground. Moderately strenuous climb with excellent views and lots of cactus.

**18 Bill Kenyon Overlook 1.0 mile loop**  
Begins on Yaqui Pass Road at Yaqui Pass Campground. Six species of cactus and fabulous views of San Felipe Wash, Mescal Bajada and Pinyon Mountains. Easy Hike.

**19 Narrows Earth Trail 0.5 mile loop**  
Begins on Hwy. 78, 4.7 miles east of Tamarisk Grove. Self-guided trail brochure describes geologic activity on this short, easy walk.

**20 The Slot Trail 1.5 miles round trip**  
From Hwy. 78 east, turn left on Buttes Pass Road. Drive approx. 1.8 miles to “T” in road. Park there. Either scramble down into the canyon in front of you and turn left into the trail, or go past the “no dogs” sign to your right over the hill and access the slot to the left. Return via dirt road.



# Family Life In The Macro Jungle

*By Ranger Steve Bier*

Imagine spending your entire life in a space the size of your bedroom. No problem you say! OK, now imagine you are only an inch tall! Where will you live? How will you get food? How will you keep from getting stepped on? And how are you going to find someone like you to play with? For the answers, let's get down to ground level, and take a tour of family life in the Macro Jungle.



**The honeybee's legs are packed with pollen**

Since we all have different bedrooms, we are going to use the Nierenberg Plaza outside the Anza-Borrego Visitor Center as our starting point. We are only an inch tall, so let's start as an egg on one of those milkweeds. Do you see any eggs? Look closely! At one inch tall, those eggs will be awfully small. The milkweed bug that frequents these plants lays its eggs way down near the ground. With stems that look like giant straws stuck into the ground, predators have a hard time reaching the eggs. Suns up! We better hatch. Most of the animals in the Macro Jungle live where they are born. Imagine your room the size of this milkweed . . . Lucky for us, we're on a tour. Let's grow some wings, and fly to those Brittle Bushes.



**A blister beetle**

WEE! That was fun! Can you smell that? That's Brittle Bush pollen, MY FAVORITE! You should try some. I love how it sticks to the hair on my legs, just like the bees. They fly from plant to plant, collecting pollen, and taking it back to the hive to be made into food for baby bees. That's just like us. We go to the store, and then bring what we buy, back to our hive, I mean home. Take a moment to look around. Some of our neighbors here don't look like pollen collectors. Some have piercing mouth parts, just like the true bugs. The leaf-footed bug uses his mouth to suck plant juices, while the robust assassin bug uses his mouth to . . . YUUK! Let's just say he's a meat eater and move on.

Careful! Those big things up there are PEOPLE. Some are here to take our picture; others want to smell the flowers. They may not even notice us. We better make ourselves visible. Butterflies are probably the best at attracting attention. They fly from flower to flower, and have pretty colorful wings. They are a lot bigger than an inch though. And we



**The golden digger wasp**

already fly. How about a bright yellow or orange, and lets make a loud noise. Mosquitoes and flies make noise! They also get swatted a lot . . . Let's stick with the colors for now. The Golden Digger Wasp has beautiful yellow and orange colors, and visits Brittle Bush often!

Now to find someone to play with. Animals in the Macro Jungle live in a very small space (remember the milkweed). We need to come up with a plan to find someone to play with and start a family. We have wings, we have bright colors . . . I've got it!! Fruit Flies! They have wings, and bright colors, and they have . . . A DANCE! In fact a lot of insects in the Macro Jungle have a dance. Some have very grand flight patterns, others use flashy color changes; fruit flies have a beautiful ballet.



**A fruit fly delicately sips nectar**



**A crab spider clings to the bottom of a blossom**



**A cluster of babies ride on the back of a mother wolf spider**

But before we head for the local dance hall, we better change back to our right size. We'd look pretty funny driving down the road as fruit flies. If you look to all the plants in the desert, you will find that each supports its own assortment of Macro residents, with many different ways of living, feeding, staying safe and creating families. About the only thing we do that our insect friends don't, is homework . . . Welcome to the "Macro Jungle!"

# When Do the Wildflowers Bloom?

This is one of the most often asked questions at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Unfortunately, it is also one of the most difficult to answer. Each year, the unique combination of sun, wind, water and temperature sets the stage for the springtime bloom. Use the following information to make your own prediction for this spring's showing.

## Weather

Rain is needed in small doses throughout the winter. Too little rain provides a poor climate for seed germination. Too much rain, and the seeds could rot or be washed away. Showers too early or too late in the season may not help the flowers bloom.

Temperature is also critical. Warm days are a good indicator of a full bloom ahead. If the sun gets too hot though (more than 85° in February / March), the seeds may become parched and seedlings scorched. Cool nights can assist flower seedlings by slowing the growth of competitors like grasses and mustards. However, very cold temperatures mean bad news for blossoms.

Along with all of these factors, wildflowers must contend with the desert winds. Hot, arid winds may dry out the seeds before they have a chance to grow. High winds during the bloom may scatter the pollen before next year's seeds have been produced.



The desert lily arises from a deeply buried bulb. Photo by Sam Webb



Each year's bloom is unique in its variety and timing. Photo by Sam Webb

## Timing

When will the flowers bloom? None of us knows for sure. Each year's bloom is unique in its variety, profusion and timing. From late February through March, you can find blossoms on the desert floor. To plan your visit to coincide with the peak of the bloom, take advantage of our Wildflower Postcard Notification service. For up-to-date information, call our Wildflower Hotline which is updated weekly.

If you should happen to miss the peak, take consolation in the fact that you've missed the peak crowds as well. A tranquil walk through the Anza-Borrego Desert will reward you any time of year.

## Postcard Notification

The peak of the flower bloom in Anza-Borrego is often less than two weeks in duration. To receive notice of this year's peak bloom period, enclose a postcard, stamped and self-addressed, in an envelope mailed to the following address or stop by the Visitor Center and purchase a stamped notification postcard.

Once we have made our best prediction for the year's peak bloom, we will notify you. The cards will be mailed out approximately two weeks in advance of the peak bloom.

**Wildflowers - A.B.D.S.P.**  
200 Palm Canyon Drive  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004



During bountiful wildflower seasons, these roadside extravaganzas make enjoying desert wildflowers easy. Photo by Sam Webb



**Datura, or Jimson Weed** has showy white flowers edged in lavender. Photo by Sam Webb

◆ For the latest in wildflower news, call the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® Wildflower Hotline. Information on this recording is updated regularly.

**Wildflower Hotline**  
**(760) 767-4684**

You can see current photos (updated weekly in-season) on the web.

<http://www.parks.ca.gov>  
Go to "Visit a Park"

Find: Anza-Borrego Desert State Park



The cacti bloom later in the season as the annual flowers begin to fade. Photo by Sam Webb

## Self-Guided Trails

If you can't join a naturalist, why not try one of our self-guided hikes? Pick up a brochure at the Visitor Center or look for one at the trailhead.

**Yaqui Well Nature Trail** Begin across the road from the Tamarisk Grove Campground to enjoy this one-and-one-half mile, one-way nature trail. Return on Yaqui Well Wash for a round-trip hike.

**Borrego Palm Canyon Trail** Often crowded, this popular trail leads to a cool, shady palm oasis. This rocky trail is three miles round-trip and takes a minimum of two hours. The route is passable, but a flash flood wiped out the trail and bridges so please use caution.

**Cactus Loop Nature Trail** Start your walk across the street and to the east of the Tamarisk Grove entrance. This one-mile loop has a short, but strenuous, climb and an uneven surface. Great views and a variety of cactus species await you.



**Narrows Earth Nature Trail** This easy, gentle one-third mile walk is short, but sweet. In 30 minutes you can fully explore the many geological processes taking place in this small canyon.

**Elephant Trees Nature Trail** Only one living Elephant Tree remains, but this hike through a rocky wash is still a delight. This easy walk covers one and one half miles and takes about one hour.

## Access Trail for Those on Wheels

Take a stroll or a roll along our three-quarter mile concrete walkway connecting the Visitor Center to Borrego Palm Canyon Campground. The surface is colored and textured to blend with its surroundings. You'll find new interpretive panels along this trail describing common plants and animals. Each panel also includes a special braille message. This is just one of the many steps California State Parks is taking to improve accessibility wherever feasible. Dogs are allowed on a 6-foot leash.

Bicycles also will be welcome on this path. However, cyclists should give way to all other traffic.



Strollers, wheelchairs and bikes all share the paved 3/4 mile nature trail between the campground and Visitor Center.

## Park Regulations

### Vehicles:

- ◆ Must be highway legal.
- ◆ Must remain on established roads

### Campfires:

- ◆ Fires may be built in metal containers ONLY.
- ◆ Flames or smoke may not damage any nearby features.
- ◆ Pack out all ashes.
- ◆ Gathering vegetation (dead or alive) for fuel is prohibited.

### Firearms:

- ◆ Must be unloaded, inoperative and in a case at all times.

### Natural & Cultural Features:

- ◆ Are fully protected. Nothing may be removed or disturbed.

### Dogs:

- ◆ Must be on a six-foot leash.
- ◆ Are allowed on all roads but NOT on trails nor in wilderness.
- ◆ Must be kept inside at night.



Your dog is welcome on a six-foot leash in the campground and on the many dirt roads in the Park.

## Practice Desert Safety

- ◆ Know your physical limitations in the heat and rugged desert terrain. Summer temperatures can reach 125 degrees F.

- ◆ Always carry plenty of water ... and drink it! It does you no good in your canteen. One gallon minimum per person per day is recommended.

- ◆ Wear sturdy footwear and a hat, and use sun protection.

- ◆ Do not hike alone — use the buddy system.

- ◆ Tell someone of your trip plans.

- ◆ Use maps. Detailed topographic maps of the entire Park are available at the Visitor Center.

- ◆ Start out with a well-maintained vehicle. Carry extra water, shovel, tools, flares and blankets. Check the road condition board at the Visitor Center before you start out.

- ◆ If your vehicle breaks down, stay with it! It is much easier to find a vehicle than a wandering person.

- ◆ Should you find yourself in trouble, do not panic. If you have followed the above precautions, help will soon be on the way.



Photo by Ranger Steve Bier



## California Overland Tours

The desert is an intriguing place to view from the road, but it becomes magical when you leave the asphalt. You are no longer just looking at it, you are experiencing it. California Overland takes you there in open-air military vehicles that allow you to escape the confines of a regular car or SUV and see, smell and feel everything the desert has to offer. You settle into your seat and look high above the terrain. Then the vehicle rambles off into the vast landscape of cactus and canyons to some of the special, hidden places that make up this incredible park.



California Overland's open-air military vehicles are part of the desert experience.

**Palm Oases • Slot Canyons • Wind Caves • Indian Pictographs  
Amazing Vista Points • Dry Lake Beds • Historic Ruins**

Featuring off-road excursions of varying intensity and duration (from 2, 4 and 8-hour day tours to overnights with all gear provided). California Overland's outdoor adventures focus on fun, education and rugged experiences. Whether it's the breathtaking view from Fonts Point, the awesome drive through the towering rock walls of Split Mountain or a spiritual walk through an ancient Native American village site, the natural beauty of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® will unfold before you.



Walk out onto a dry lake bed surrounded by mountains and feel the beautiful solitude or experience an overnight where you can share the camaraderie around the glow of a campfire under a desert sky exploding with stars. No matter which excursion you choose you'll have a great time that will stay with you for years. So explore Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® while exploring your adventurous side with California Overland.

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Private Couples and Family  
Adventures Too!**

**760-767-1232  
866-6-EXPLORE  
www.californiaoverland.com**

## Anza-Borrego Almanac

	High		Low		Rainfall	
	°F	°C	°F	°C	inch	cm
January	69	21	43	6	1.19	3.03
February	73	23	47	8	1.17	2.98
March	77	25	50	10	0.76	1.94
April	84	29	54	12	0.22	0.55
May	93	34	61	16	0.08	0.20
June	102	39	68	20	0.01	0.03
July	107	42	76	24	0.30	0.77
August	106	41	75	24	0.54	1.38
September	100	38	71	22	1.02	2.58
October	90	32	61	16	0.29	0.75
November	77	25	50	10	0.52	1.32
December	69	21	43	6	0.76	1.92

Figures are based on daily readings at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® Headquarters (45-year average).

## Sunrise / Sunset 2009

	Sunrise	Sunset
January 1	6:49	4:50
January 15	6:49	5:02
February 1	6:41	5:18
February 15	6:29	5:31
March 1	6:13	5:43
March 15 (PDT)	6:55	6:54
April 1	6:33	7:06
April 15	6:15	7:17
May 1	5:57	7:28
May 15	5:45	7:39
June 1	5:37	7:50
June 15	5:36	7:57

	Sunrise	Sunset
July 1	5:40	7:59
July 15	5:47	7:56
August 1	5:58	7:45
August 15	6:08	7:31
September 1	6:20	7:10
September 15	6:29	6:52
October 1	6:40	6:30
October 15	6:50	6:12
November 1 (PST)	6:04	4:54
November 15	6:17	4:43
December 1	6:31	4:38
December 15	6:41	4:40

# A DESERT FAMILY AT THE VISITOR CENTER

By Ranger Robert Thériault

Last spring a desert family of Costa's hummingbirds (hummers) attracted much attention at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's® Visitor Center when its home was established in a young elephant tree near the entrance. Park staff eventually was compelled to ribbon off the area to ensure nesting success, since visitors (and especially kids) were happily viewing the young birds from only inches away and even shaking the branch upon which the nest was fastened!



These young birds must wait for just the right time to leave the nest.

## BACKGROUND

When humans arrived in the new world, the hummingbirds were “waiting” for us. These tiny wonders of nature exist only in the western hemisphere. Of the approximately 325 species in the world, their center of abundance is in the northern Andes, suggesting that they evolved in South America.

Eight hummingbird species have been identified within the park, but only two can be found year-round - the Anna's and Costa's.

## WHAT SCIENTISTS HAVE DISCOVERED

Ornithologists have discovered many interesting facts about these small birds. The use of high speed photography has revealed wing speeds of 80 beats per second. This specialized photography also reveals how hummers are able to hover, fly backwards and dart in any direction with ease: flexible shoulder joints allow the wings to beat backwards and forwards with the forward edge of the wing always leading, tracing a shallow figure-eight pattern. When on the move, the bird is able to approach a speed of 60 miles per hour.

Studies have revealed specifics about the incredibly high metabolic rate of these creatures. At rest, the heart beats at 250 beats per minute (bpm), and in flight can zoom up to 1,250 bpm! It is said that in order to match the metabolic levels of a hummingbird, a human would have to eat 1,000 quarter-pound hamburgers a day. Conversely, in a torpid state (a condition of reduced body function, used during cold nights or periods of little food in order to conserve energy) the heart rate may drop to 50 bpm.

Regardless of all this talk of high energy out-



put, you do frequently see hummers perched on a twig, doing “nothing.” Actually, they are conserving energy while their full crop (which temporarily stores food) empties into the stomach. When about half empty, the bird lifts off in search of more food. How do we know that? Scientists use radioactive isotopes as tracers to follow nectar in the bird's body.

Hummingbirds are attracted to the color red, but it has been found that they do not have a higher visual sensitivity to this color; rather they associate it with the reward of nectar, so they are sure to explore practically anything red, even your red clothing!

## BACK TO THE VISITOR CENTER FAMILY

Hummingbirds are pugnacious beings and Costa's will commonly nest build in quite unprotected areas, as did our Visitor Center mom. For a few weeks last spring at the Visitor Center, this Costa's family gave a host of visitors a close-up look at an important part of their life.



With its nest mate gone, it is time to take the plunge!



Out of the nest and into the wide desert world.

## SOME FUN HUMMINGBIRD TIPS

**Hoping to Spot a Nest?** Don't watch a male, he never visits it!

**Is it a female Anna's or Costa's?** Without the bright markings of the male, females are difficult to identify. While hovering, the Costa's is decidedly more animated, flipping the tail and rocking, in contrast to “Steady Eddy” Anna. On a perched bird, the Anna's tail extends well beyond the folded wings (I call her “Long-tailed Annie”); while in the Costa's they appear about the same length.

**Trying to Identify a Hummer with a Yellow Face?** We don't have any yellow-headed hummingbirds. That is pollen they pick up as they probe flowers!

# ANOTHER FIRST FOR CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

by Diana Lindsay

California's largest state park is also the first to develop a sister park relationship across the world. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park® and Ikh Nart Nature Reserve were officially recognized as sister parks in September, 2008.

A resolution from the California State Park and Recreation Commission and a letter from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger were hand delivered to government officials in the Gobi Desert of southeastern Mongolia by visiting State Park staff and Anza-Borrego Foundation & Institute (ABFI) board trustees. Ikh Nart Nature Reserve shares many com-



Argali petroglyphs carved into a granite face overlooking the desert-steppes

with ancient rock art. The area is subject to flash floods.

Park Superintendent Mark Jorgensen found out about Ikh Nart in 2004, learning that it has an international research station created through a partnership with the Denver Zoo Foundation and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences. Scientists and students from Mongolia, the United States, Great Britain, Germany and Russia do biological research in the reserve and promote ecological tourism. Volunteers from Earthwatch assist the researchers. A major focus of study is the Argali sheep.

Through the efforts of the Denver Zoo, the reserve hired its first on-site ranger whose job was to curtail Argali sheep poaching in the reserve. The reserve also has volunteer rangers that assist in conservation efforts.

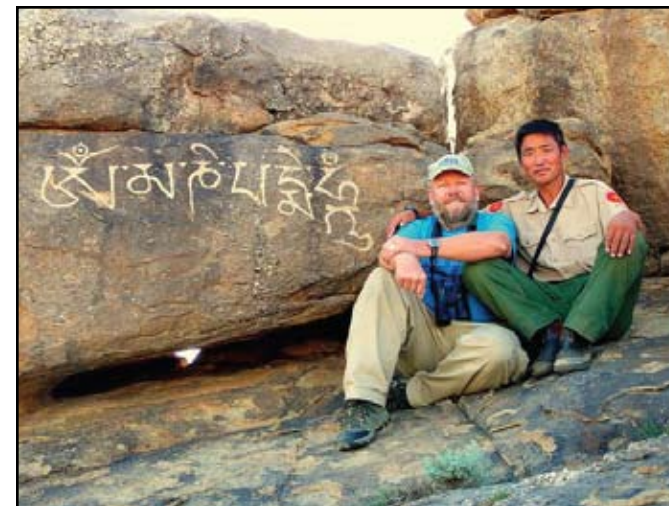
In 2006 Superintendent Jorgensen visited Ikh Nart with the intent of establishing a cooperative relationship with the reserve that would enhance their conservation efforts by helping to train and equip the new rangers. This led to a more formal agreement in 2007, leading to the sister park agreement.



Lynn Rhodes, Chief of Law Enforcement for California State Parks, presents Governor D. Bold of Darlanjargal Soum the letter from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

monalities with Anza-Borrego, including its logo. The reserve's symbol is the Argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*) - the largest mountain sheep in the world and, like our Peninsular bighorn, it is threatened. Ikh Nart has one of the last remaining populations of Argali in the world.

Ikh Nart is about one-fourth the size of Anza-Borrego, at 164,500 acres, with boundaries making it appear long and narrow. It has a dry climate with low-lying areas and rocky crags. Some areas resemble Blair Valley, complete



ABDSP Superindendent Mark Jorgensen with Ikh Nart Nature Reserve ranger.

Anza-Borrego is helping the reserve to post boundaries and interpretive signs, develop sources of revenue and to encourage preservation through public support. Anza-Borrego is also assisting the reserve staff and local government with park management practices.

In turn, local officials, who help to administer the reserve, are hosting visitors from Anza-Borrego and are facilitating the exchange of information regarding education and interpretation of mutual resources.



For Christmas 2007, ABFI President Ray Mouton (second from the right) received the funds to purchase this motorcycle for one of the Ikh Nart rangers to use on patrol.

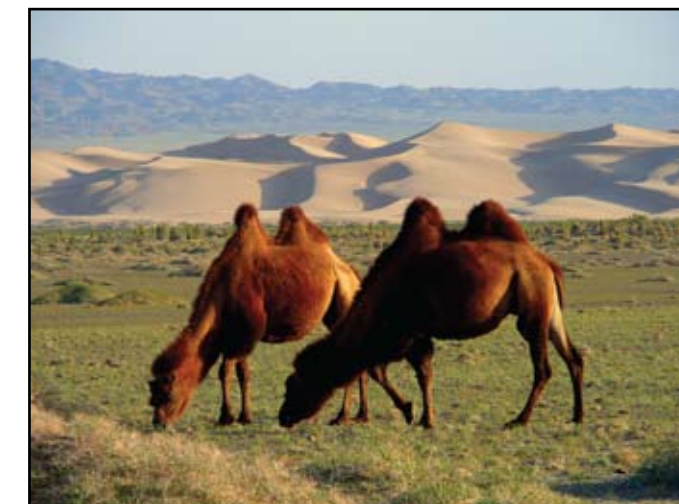
ABFI's 5<sup>th</sup> grade desert camp is also benefiting from this new relationship. Large circular *yurts*, known as *gers* in Mongolia, will house the student campers in Borrego Palm Canyon. The *gers* are designed to withstand strong winds and inclement weather.

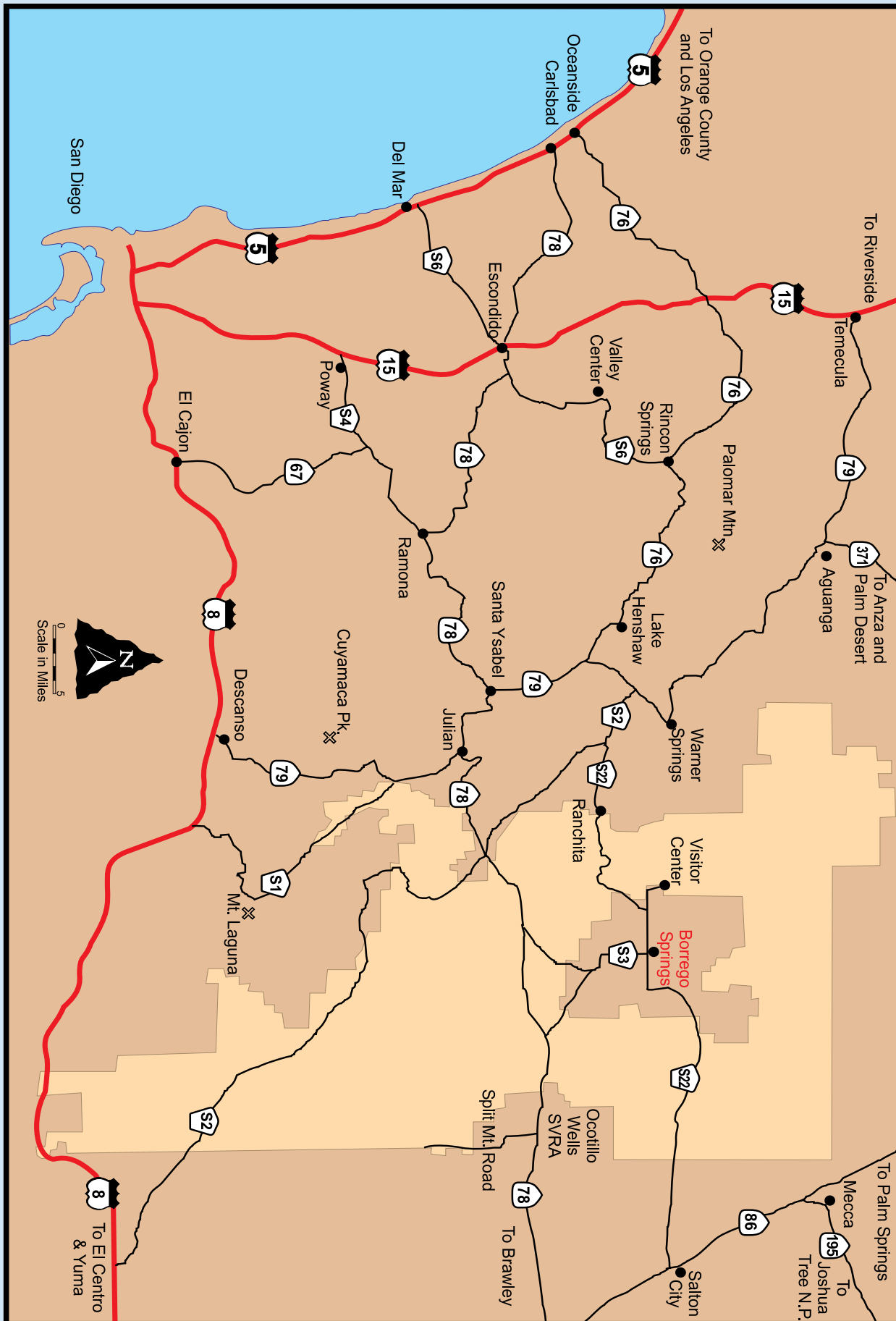


A typical Mongolian *ger* (yurt). This one will become the future Ikh Nart Nature Reserve Visitor Center.

ABFI will also begin an annual summer desert hostel in 2009 that will visit Ikh Nart Nature Reserve and other sites in the Gobi Desert. For those that might be interested in joining this caravan to Mongolia, contact ABFI at 760-767-0446 or [info@theabf.org](mailto:info@theabf.org).

For more information about Ikh Nart Nature Reserve, see their website at: [www.ikhnart.com](http://www.ikhnart.com).





# The Springs at Borrego

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Borrego Springs, CA 92004

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GONSER